



## CITY OF MURRIETA

July 3, 2014

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Over the past week, our community has faced a very large challenge due to the federal immigration policy. Last Friday afternoon, at 2:00 p.m., California time, we learned through back channels that our local border patrol station would begin receiving 140 immigrants, mainly women and children, who have migrated to the US from Central America. They were to be processed through our local border patrol station. This facility is not appropriate for that purpose – it is essentially a jail, designed to hold drug runners and criminals caught at the Border Patrol checkpoint on I-15 just south of Temecula.

A press conference was scheduled Monday to present the community with the facts as we knew them. Two issues were identified at that time: the need to prepare for the arrival of 140 immigrants every 72 hours and ensuring their safety as well as that of the rest of our community; and the apparent failure of the U.S. Immigration policy and process. I made a point at the press conference that our residents should contact their U.S. Representatives and the White House to voice their concerns over this inappropriate use of the facilities and also that a Town Hall meeting was scheduled for Wednesday to answer more questions and constructively come up with solutions. The events that occurred between the press conference and the Town Hall meeting, were not planned by the City and did not allow for the constructive dialogue that we were seeking.

The unfortunate acts at Tuesday's protest that we learned of later were not representative of our community. Ours is a very compassionate and caring community! We should note, however, that there are many people in the southland who share the sentiments of the protestors.

During the Town Hall meeting, there were approximately 1,500 participants. Outrage turned into concern and fear for the medical needs and immunizations of the many children and families amongst the migrants. Additionally, many speakers expressed concern for the health, safety, and protection of local residents from communicable diseases that the County Department of Public Health regularly provides for the county's residents. During this meeting, it became apparent that there was a lack of communication between federal agencies (e.g.,


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Border Patrol and I.C.E.), resources that remain available but not utilized, lack of thorough medical examinations and placing immigrants in inhumane conditions, to name a few.

Mr. President, the city of Murrieta has 106,000 residents and a sworn police force of 87 people, including the Chief and command staff. While our police department did an outstanding job of managing these events, it took all the resources we could marshal away from our primary job of providing protection to the community - all for a problem that was not created locally. I understand that as a city, we do not have a role in immigration policies, but we are certainly being affected by it. To be clear, the lack of a dialogue between the President and Congress has damaged our community, and not only ours, but communities throughout the southwestern United States!

I strongly believe that a dialogue needs to be held between you, Mr. President, and Congress, to address this situation. I have many ideas on things that can be done to address this situation, and would be willing to sit down with you and with key members of Congress to share those ideas and discuss possible strategies to resolve this immigration issue. I would be pleased to come to Washington to meet with you. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



ALAN LONG  
Mayor

cc: All members of Congress (House and Senate)  
Governor Jerry Brown, California  
Governor Rick Perry, Texas  
California Legislators  
Murrieta City Council  
Mayors in Riverside County  
Press Enterprise News  
Desert Sun News  
Orange County Register News  
Los Angeles Times News  
San Diego Union Tribune News